

REMARKS


Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 and 16-24 are allowed. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niikawa et al. (US 2002/0171747) in view of Sakaida (US 6,744,920). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niikawa et al. (US 2002/0171747) in view of Sakaida (US 6,744,920) and further in view of Higashihara et al. (US 6,160,581). Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 12, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks hereinbelow.

Claim 12 is amended to include claim 15, and therefore is allowable. Claims 13 and 14 are dependent upon claim 12, and therefore are allowable.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that in view of the above amendments and remarks, that this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 40,802

Roland R. Schindler II/jrk
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-588-2736
Facsimile: 585-477-1148